

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A catalytic converter unit, the catalytic converter unit being an elongate unit having an inlet end, for receiving gas to be treated, and an opposite outlet end and comprising:

a wall means ~~defining a treatment zone,~~ comprising an inner shell bounding a treatment zone, an outer shell that laterally surrounds the inner shell in spaced relationship with the inner shell, and a plurality of partition walls dividing the space between the inner and outer shells into first and second transfer zones and at least one through-flow zone, wherein the zones are adjacent each other, each zone is adjacent at least one other zone and each zone extends from the inlet end to the outlet end, the wall means includes a partition wall that divides the treatment zone into first and second segments, the first segment of the treatment zone is upstream of the second segment of the treatment zone with respect to flow from the inlet end of the catalytic converter unit towards the outlet end thereof, the first transfer zone is plugged at a location that is upstream of the partition wall in the treatment zone, and the second transfer zone is plugged at a location that is downstream of the partition wall in the treatment zone, and

a catalytic converter element disposed in the first segment of the treatment zone, spaced from the partition wall,

and wherein the first segment of the treatment zone is in flow communication with the first transfer zone and the second segment of the treatment zone is in flow communication with the second transfer zone.

2-3 (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A catalytic converter unit according to ~~claim 3,~~ claim 1, wherein the transfer zones are separated laterally by a common partition wall.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A catalytic converter unit according to ~~claim 5,~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~wall means comprises an inner wall that bounds the treatment zone, an outer wall through which the inner wall extends in the inner shell and the outer shell are substantially coaxial relationship, whereby a substantially annular space is~~ and the space defined between the inner and outer walls, shells is substantially annular, and a plurality of radial walls divide the partition walls that divide the space between the inner and outer shells into said zones are substantially radial and divide the annular space into sectors that form, respectively, the transfer zones and the through-flow zone or zones.

7. (original) A catalytic converter unit according to claim 6, wherein the radial walls are substantially equiangularly distributed in the annular space.

8. (currently amended) A catalytic converter unit according to claim 7, ~~wherein the wall means comprises~~ comprising at least four radial walls and wherein one of the radial walls bounds both the first transfer zone and the second transfer zone.

9. (currently amended) A catalytic converter unit according to claim 6, wherein the inner wall shell is formed with a first opening that is downstream of the catalytic converter element and upstream of the partition wall in the treatment zone and provides communication between the first segment of the treatment zone and the first transfer zone, and with a second opening that provides communication between the second segment of the treatment zone and the second transfer zone.

10. (original) A catalytic converter unit according to claim 1, wherein the first and second transfer zones are plugged substantially at opposite respective ends thereof.

11-14 (withdrawn - canceled)

15. (currently amended) A catalytic converter apparatus including a plurality of substantially cylindrical catalytic converter units ~~connected end to end between an inlet end of the apparatus and an outlet end thereof~~, each catalytic converter unit ~~comprising~~ comprising a catalytic converter element and a wall means defining a treatment zone, first and second transfer zones and at least one through-flow zone, wherein the zones are adjacent each other, the wall means includes a partition wall that divides the treatment zone into first and second segments, a first segment in flow communication with the first transfer zone and a second segment in flow communication with the second transfer zone, the first transfer zone is plugged upstream of the partition wall and the second transfer zone is plugged downstream of the partition wall, and ~~a~~ the catalytic converter element is disposed in the first segment of the treatment zone, spaced from the partition wall,

and wherein ~~the first segment of the treatment zone is in flow communication with the first transfer zone and the second segment of the treatment zone is in flow communication with the second transfer zone~~ the catalytic converter units are connected end-to-end between an inlet end of the apparatus and an outlet end thereof and in each pair of catalytic converter units composed of an upstream unit and an adjacent downstream unit, the first transfer zone of the upstream unit is aligned with a through-flow zone of the downstream unit and the second transfer zone of the upstream unit is aligned with the first transfer zone of the downstream unit.

16. (canceled)